EXHIBIT MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

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MEDA represents over 230 members, who are actively involved in local economic activity, community development, job retention and job creation for Montana.

January 31, 2013

TO: Chairman Duane Ankney and members of the House Appropriations Committee Room 102; February 4th; 3:00pm

RE: HB11 – Treasure State Endowment Program

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) stands in support of HB11.

The Montana Department of Commerce's research findings, along with comments from local government officials and citizens, indicate that the principal reason why so many local public facilities are deficient is that most options for correcting deficiencies in our state's infrastructure are simply not considered affordable by local residents. TSEP is a critical state-funded program that has been designed to help address the affordability problem by providing grants to lower the cost of constructing drinking water systems, wastewater facilities and bridges.

The affordability finding is especially true for most of Montana's communities because these facilities are very expensive to construct, the cost is usually divided among a relatively small number of users, and the community may also need to upgrade other facilities at the same time. In addition, funds are used for match that allows other grant and loan sources to be utilized for project completion that small communities must take on to meet critical needs and mandates from state and federal agencies.

Thank you for your support of TSEP infrastructure funding which translates into quality jobs for Montana's residents: TSEP is an important tool for the continued growth of Montana's economy.

For MEDA,

Tracy McIntyre, President

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Allocation of Funding Sources for Natural Resource Programs 2015 Biennium

